quarter is given as under:

(figures in lakh tonnes)

	1st January	1st April	1st July	1st October
Rice	84.(X)	118.00	100.00	65.00
Wheat	84.00	40.00	143.00	116.00
TOTAL:	168.00	158.00	243.00	181.00

Telephone System in Delhi

†*675. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleasea to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive improvement is required in telephone system in Delhi;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to bring this system lo the international level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Improvement in telecommunication system is a continuous process due to obsolescence and the need to keep pace with the rapid advances in telecom technology.

(c) and (d) The erstwhile service providing functions of Government on telecom side are being carried out by MTNL in Delhi. Following actions have been taken by MTNL :

(i) Replacement of 120 K lines electromechanical, 158 K lines analog electronic exchanges 8K Analog TAX, 17KE-10BTAXand 161.3 K lines of old digital E-10B local exchanges upto 31st March, 2003 with new technology exchanges.

(ii) Inter exchange network which was earlier working on copper cables has been replaced by Optical Fibre Cable network, (iii) New technology access network in local network has been introduced to reduce the lorn* copper cable loops by installing a larger number of Remote Switching Units (RSUs), Digital Line Concentrators (DLCs), Corded and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) exchanges.

†Origlnal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) As on 31.3.2002, 20.17 Lac Conductor KM (LCKM) of paper core copper cable has been replaced by Optical Fibre Cable. The remaining 28.17 LCKM of cable are planned to be replaced progressively by the end of 2005-2006.

(v) Outdoor plant is being rehabilitated continuously.

Foodgrains and sugar for BPL People in U.P.

*676. SHRILALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and sugar released for distribution through the PDS for the Below Poverty Line families in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of such families Below Poverty Line in Uttar Pradesh at present and the steps taken by Government to ensure that no families Below Poverty Line are left out of this scheme; and

(c) the rates at which foodgrains and sugar are made available under this scheme at present ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SH ARAD YADAV): (a) The quantum of foodgrains and sugar allocated to Uttar Pradesh for the BPL families (including the Antyodaya families) under the PDS for the last 3 years are as under:—

(figures in MTs)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Sugar
2000-2001	733828	1537660	776528
2001*2802	818760	1781820	411280
2002-2003	1471272	2902618	411280

(b) The estimated no. ofBPL families (as on 1.3.2000) in Uttar Pradesh was 106.79 lakhs (including 16.37 lakh Antyodaya families). The identification and issue of distinctive Ration Cards to these families has been completed by the State Government. Under the Guidelines for implementation of TPDS, the State Governments have been asked to include the really poor and vulnerable sections of society under the BPL category and to actively involve the Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas/local representative bodies in the identification process. The State Governments have also been asked to conduct periodical checking of Ration Cards to weed out ineligible Ration Cards.